

JENISON HISTORY

September 2011

Issue No.: 2011-9

www.jenisonhistory.org

JENISON HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
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From the Archives

These articles are a regular feature primarily from the files of Virginia Timmer. If you have a topic you would like to contribute (your family stories, etc.) please contact the editor

Our mission is to learn about Jenison history, obtain artifacts relating to its history, and maintain the Jenison Historical Museum as a place to share and display our heritage.

THEN AND NOW

In keeping with our theme for our open house this coming Saturday, here is an article that was published in the Grand Rapids Herald; Sunday, January 2, 1916. Just maybe, the more things change, the more they stay the same?

WASHINGTON, Jan 1, 1916. - Official government figures made public here, disclosed that in the face of rising prices of gasoline, production of crude petroleum during the past year was greater than in 1914, although production was "purposely retarded as far as practicable," that reserve stocks of crude petroleum now being held in the country are the largest ever recorded, and that exports of gasoline, to which the rise in prices frequently has been attributed in the last 10 months of 1915, are less than the exports during the corresponding period of the two previous years.

Both the department of justice and the federal trade commission are preparing to investigate gasoline prices.

A statement issued by the geological survey estimated the 1915 production of market petroleum at 267,400,000; 2000 barrels more than in 1914.

"This," says the statement, "does not agree with the currently reported reason for the exceptionally high prices now prevailing for motor fuel." It adds:



Downtown Jenison as seen from atop the Jenison Mill. To the left you can see the gas pump



How we got around
in days past



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THEN AND NOW (CONT)

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"As the result of the overload put on the transporting and refining phases of the petroleum industry by the excess output of 1914, the year, 1915, may be characterized as a period of readjustment, in which production activity was purposely retarded as far as practicable. The small increase, therefore, is more significant than the simple figures indicate."

Factors that might be expected to affect the price of gasoline, according to geological survey officials, are production, consumption and prices of crude petroleum. Consumption figures, they said, were not available, though consumption was increasing.

A low petroleum price level was reached in April and until August the price remained at \$1.35 a barrel for the market standard. Then the price began to soar and on December 17 petroleum was selling at \$2.15. Indications are, says the statement, that the price soon will reach \$2.50, its previous high record.

Biggest Reserve in History

One production fact brought out by the survey is that crude petroleum stocks held in reserve, the largest ever known, increased 50,000,000 barrels in 1915 and at present more than 220,000,000 barrels are being held. Field storage by producers accounts for 24,000,000 barrels of this.

The relation between the cost of crude petroleum and gasoline is hard to determine, according to officials, who have given the subject study because of the varying grades of petroleum and the variety of oils produced in refinement. An increased demand for gasoline, they say, means an increased production with a consequent increase in production of kerosene, lubricating oils and other petroleum products. All petroleum products have risen in price.

Officials familiar with the situation said today the recent discovery by Dr. Walter F. Rittman, a government chemist, of a process for obtaining from crude oils 200 percent more gasoline than by old

methods, probably would have a bearing on both production and price before another year had passed. Several companies already have started production under the new methods. Their product and the output of others to be started, it was said, would be felt soon on the market.

Museum Happenings

September:

The ever popular 'Jenison - Then and Now' will be making a comeback in September with an updated and expanded display. Be sure to come out and see what is new in this popular display

October:

Be sure to catch Ken Williams display on the Interurban.

Check out the calendar on the web for other upcoming events.:

We look forward to seeing you, and if you would like to volunteer to help at any of these events, please contact the museum at 457-4398 or email us at info@jenisonhistory.org.

Thank You:

THANK YOU!! JHA would like to extend a big thank you to the Four Seasons Garden Club for the beautiful gardens at the Museum.

Are you a member??

If you are not a dues paying member, please consider joining to help support the Association. Dues are a bargain at only \$10 per year. Contact the JHA at info@jenisonhistory.org or calling the museum

616-457-4398

Volunteer Opportunities!!

Museum Cleaning: This is a big job, as you can well imagine, that needs constant attention in order to have the museum look it's best during the open houses. Contact any board member if you can lend a few hours.

Tour Guides: The school tours are a great way of teaching the children about our history and is such a rewarding experience. You won't regret being a part of this experience for our local children. Joyce Klawiter would love to hear from you.

Community Displays: An initiative is to get some displays out into the community, possible to local banks,

schools and businesses. What better way to get awareness out into the community than to bring the museum to them. Grayce Lancaster is heading up this project. She would welcome any help you might be able to offer from finding the locations to picking display material and setting up the displays.

And the list goes on... Monthly Open Houses, Theme's for Open Houses, Inventory, Museum Maintenance, board trustee.

You can come to a monthly meeting or reach out to any board member if you would like to volunteer in any particular area.

SEPTEMBER OPEN HOUSE

JENISON THEN AND NOW

You won't want to miss this ever popular display of pictures showing Jenison landmarks as they were 'Then' and what they look like 'Now'

SATURDAY, September 17, 2011
2-4 PM

FOR SALE AT THE MUSEUM

Jenison Museum Note Pads	\$ 1.50
Stationary with Envelopes	\$ 2.00
Book: Bend in the River	\$15.00
Book: At the Bend	\$ 3.00
Mill Print (unframed)	\$10.00
Jenison at the Bend CD	\$10.00
Historical Prints:	
Large	\$10.00
Small	\$ 7.50

Available during any open house, or call the Museum at
457-4398

JHA TRUSTEE'S

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((#)) = year of re-election to the board

Contact Information: To reach any board member, leave a message at 457-4398.

**Historical Association of
Michigan**

Find us on the registry of the Historical Society of Michigan
www.hsmichigan.org

We are now on Facebook, find us at Jenison History Association and become a friend.



Jenison Historical Association
PO Box 664
Jenison, MI 49429

2011 Meeting Schedule

Thursday, September 15 - Georgetown Library

Thursday, October 20 - Georgetown Library

Thursday, November 17 - Georgetown Library

No Meeting in December, 2011

All meetings begin at 6:45 PM unless noted

2011 Museum Open House Schedule

September 17 2-4 PM Jenison Then and Now

October 15 2-4 PM Interurban

December 3 1-4 PM Holiday Open House

1st Tuesday of the month April thru November
10 AM - Noon

Themes posted on web site: www.jenisonhistory.org

Call to volunteer your time at the open houses